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Message Text

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66651
DRAFTED BY:CEQ:LTALBOT:WAHAYNE
APPROVED BY:SCI:EN:AMB COERR
EUR/SES:MR PARDON
INTERIOR:DR LINDUSKA(SUB)
EUR/SOV:JWILKINSON(SUB)
SCI/EN:GDKULICK
SCI/SA:RWALD(INFO)
---------- 087622
R 142138Z AUG 73
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SENV, UR
SUBJ: US-USSR ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENT:
WILDLIFE: SIBERIAN TIGER PROPOSAL

REF: STATE 060209

1. AS STATED REFTEL, WE BELIEVE NATIONAL GELGRAPHIC PROJECT FOR FILMING SIBERIAN TIGER WOULD BE WORTHWHILE CONTRIBUTION TO US-USSR ENVIRONMENTAL COOPERATION. SOVIET APPROVAL FOR PROJECT HAS NOT YET BEEN RECEIVED. GELGRAPHIC OFFICIALS INFORM US ABOUT THREE MONTHS LEAD TIME REQUIRED TO ORGANIZE EXPEDITION.

2. BY LETTER IN OPEN MAIL TO DR. LEE TALBOT (CEQ), SOVIET WILDLIFE PROJECT CHAIRMAN KRINITSKY REQUESTED ADDITIONAL INFORMATION. NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC HAS NOW SUPPLIED THIS INFO, CONTAINED IN PARAGRAPHS 3-10 BELOW, WHICH WE ASK THAT EMBASSY TRANSMIT TO KRINITSKY. THIS INFORMATION
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AUGMENTS MATERIAL SENT EARLIER FROM GEOGRAPHIC VIA

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DR. LINDUSKA.

3. BEGIN TEXT

(TITLE): NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC PROPOSAL FOR TIGER STUDY
AND FILM EXPEDITION TO SOVIET UNION.

4. THE EXPEDITION WOULD CONSIST OF (A) DR. MAURICE HORNOCKER,
AN AMERICAN SCIENTIST, (B) MR. PAUL BOORSTIN, PRODUCER-DIRECTOR
FOR THE NATIONAL GELGRAHIC SOCIETY, (:) AN OFFICIAL NATIONAL
GEOGRAPHIC SOCIET DOCUMENTARY FILM CREW CONSISTING OF
CAMERAMAN, ASSOCIATE CAMERMAN, SOUNDMAN, PRODUCTION
MANAGER AND STILL PHOTOGRAPHER (A SOVIET CAMERMAN
WOULD BE WELCOME ON THE ENTIRE PROJECT), (D) SOVIET SCIENTISTS.

5. IF PERMISSION RECEIVED, HOPE TO ARRIVE MOSCOW
BEGINNINE OF NOVEMBER. PLAN FOR THE ENTIRE EXPEDITION TO
TAKE APPROXIMATELY ONE MONTH.

6. THE PURPOSE OF THE EXPEDITION WILL BE TO SEP UP A
COOPERATIVE STUDY OF THE SIBERIAN TIGER. DR. MAURICE
HORNOCKER WOULD MEET HIS SOVIET SCIENTIFIC COUNTERPART
IN MOSCOW, AND TOGETHER THE TWO SCIENTISTS WOULD JOURNEY
TO THE HABITAT OF THE SIBERIAN TIGER IN THE SOVIET UNION.
THERE THEY WOULD LOCATE, CAPTURE, AND INSTRUMENT WITH A
RADIO TRACKING COLLAR AT LEAST ONE SIBERIAN TIGER. THE
NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIET FILM CREW WOULD MAKE A
DOCUMENTARY MOTION PCITURE RECORD OF THE ENTIRE PROJECT,
THE RESULT TO BE USED FOR EDUCATIONAL PURPOSES. THE FILM CREW
WOULD RECORD THE BEHAVIOR OF THE SIBERIAN TIGER AS WELL AS THE
STORY OF THE COOPERATIVE WORK OF THE RUSSIAN AND AMERICAN
SCIENTISTS WORKING TOGETHER TOWARDS THE COMMON GOAL OF BETTER
UNDERSTANDING THE SIBERIAN TIGER.

7 BY THE END OF THE ONE-MONTH VISIT AT LEAST ONE SIBERIAN
TIGER SHOULD HAVE INSTRUMENTS ATTACHED TO PERMIT EXTENSIVE
FURTHER STUDY. ON HIS DEPARTURE, DR. HORNOCKER WOULD
LEAVE HIS RADIO TELEMETRY EQUIPMENT IN RUSSIA FOR A
CONTINUATION OF THE STUDY BY THE SOVIET SCIENTISTS. BY THE
TIME OF HORNOCKER'S DEPARTURE, THE APPROPRIATE RUSSIAN
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SCIENTIST WOULD BE ACQUAINTED WITH THE METHODS HORNOCKER
HAS DEVELOPED FOR BEST UTILIZING RDAIO TELEMETRY EQUIPMENT
TO STUDY THE BIG CATS.

8. THIS ONE-MONTH PRELIMINARY STUDY WOULD ALSO OFFER
SIGNIFICANT CONCLUSIONS ON THE FEASIBILITY OF CONDUCTING A
LONG-TERM RESEARCH PROJECT INVOLVING THE SIBERIAN TIGER.
ALSO, A POTENTIAL RESULT OF THIS VISIT WOULD BE FOR THE

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RUSSIAN SCIENTIST TO MAKE A FAMILAR EXPEDITION TO THE
UNITED STATES WHERE THE RUSSIAN SCIENTIST COULD CONDUCT
A SIMILAR STUDY IN COOPERATION WITH HORNOCKER, PERHAPS
ON THE AMERICAN MOUNTAIN LION (FELIS CONCOLOR). THE
SCIENTIFIC DETAILS OF THE ENTIRE TRIP WOULD BE WORKED
OUT BY HORNOCKER IN COOPERATION WITH HIS SOVIET
SCIENTIFIC ASSOCIATE TO PROVIDE THE MAXIMUM PRODUCTIVITY
FOR ALL CONCERNED.

9. ON A RECENT VISIT TO MOSCOW, DENNIS B. KANE OF THE
NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIET ARRANGED WITH ANATOLI BOGOMOLOV
OF NOVOSTI FOR THE BASIC DETAILS OF TRAVEL AND ACCOMMODATION
FOR THIS PROJECT. THE SOVIETY WOULD PAY $5,000.00 WHICH
WOULD INCLUDE ALL TRANSPORTATION FROM MOSCOW FOR THE ENTIRE
EXPEDITION. NOVOSTI WOULD PROVIDE AN INTERPRETER, A
GUIDE, AND A SUPPLEMENTARY CAMERAMAN AND ALSO ALL
GROUND TRANSPORTATION. THE SOVIETY WOULD PAY FOR ALL HOTELS
AND FOOD FOR THE ENTIRE EXPEDITION. DR. HORNOCKER AS WELL
AS THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC FILM CREW ARE ACCUSTOMED TO
THE OUTDOOR LIFESTYLE NECESSARY FOR THE CLOSE STUDY OF
WILDLIFE IN THEIR NATURAL HABITAT, AND WOULD ANTICIPATE THE
POSSIBLE NEEF FOR LIVING UNDER RUGGED FIELD CONDITIONS WHILE
STUDYING THE SIBERIAN TIGER.

10. FURTHER DETAILS OF THE TRIP COULD BE DISCUSSED DURING
THE WORKING GROUP MEETING IN OCTOBER. HOWEVER, THE
THREE-MONTH LEAD TIME NECESSARY FOR THE EXPEDITION MEANS
THAT PLANS AND COMMITMENTS MUST BE MADE IMMEDIATELY.
IT IS ESSENTIAL FOR BOTH DR. HORNOCKER AND THE NATIONAL
GEOGRAPHIC SOCIET THAT THE EXPEDITION BEGIN BY EARLY NOVEMBER.
SO THAT PLANNING MAY BEGIN IMMEDIATELY,
THE SOVIET NEEDS TO KNOW WHETHER THIS IS ACCEPTABLE TO
THE SOVIET AUTHORITIES, ROUGHLY WHERE IN THE SOVIET UNION
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EXPEDITION WOULD NEED TO GO TO LOCATE TIGERS, AND THE
APPROXIMAATE LENGTH OF TIME THIS MIGHT REQUIRE IN NOVEMBER,
ETC. IN ADDITION, NEED TO KNOW THE NAME OF THE RUSSIAN
SCIENTIST WHO WOULD BE MAURICE HORNOCKER'S RUSSIAN
COUNTERPART, AND WHO WOULD JOIN HORNOCKER ON THE EXPEDITION
TO THE SIBERIAN TIGER'S HABITAT. END TEXT. ROGERS

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